

**THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE**

"PAINTER'S PALATE"

525B-316 - Premise

Written by GLORIA SHEN

**LOGLINE:** *Mom takes a full-time job at Grandma Nin's restaurant, only to be frustrated with the lack of creative outlets.*

**THEME:** *There's more than one way to pursue your dreams*

Mom is drowning in GigPig jobs, always on the move, leaving little time for her art and even less cash... She needs a steady full-time job. That's when Nin swoops in with what should be the answer to her prayers: she's bought Sam's Diner and is re-opening her Thai restaurant! She wants Sharon to be her partner. Mom reluctantly agrees... it is exactly what she was looking for. She sadly puts her art away in favor of a "real job."

The whole family chips in to make the restaurant a success: Scratch is the official taste tester, Darryl's a busboy, Dad's front of house, Molly's a waitress. (Molly's keeps topping off Dad's coffee; he doesn't realize he's had 9 cups.) But Mom bristles under Nin's control in the kitchen. She hates following rigid orders, and there's no creativity in Nin's traditional recipes. This is not the life she wanted for herself - it's everything she ran away from in her youth. But, for the sake of the family, she's gonna grit her teeth and bare it. We see Mom and Nin's opposing viewpoints on the restaurant: Nin sees it as a positive step for her and Sharon, but Mom sees it as a step further from the life she wanted.

During the dinner rush, Mom has had it! She can't do this. She knows she needs steady money, but she also needs art! Nin tells her that for her, cooking is an expression of love. But that's not all it is. Sharon needs to find the art in cooking. She needs to express herself on the plate. In a song burst, Mom tries it out, angrily squeezing coconut oil and slicing lemongrass into the wok. She adds spices...then starts to see the ingredients like a paint palette. In a surreal moment, Mom sees her cooking as art being created behind her, mirroring what she's creating in the wok. She no longer sees cooking and art as separate, but understands now that art can happen anywhere, even in the kitchen. Nin returns and finds Mom has tweaked Nin's traditional recipes with modern twists and gorgeous plating. Nin tries them: "They taste like...home. The old AND the new." The food is a HIT with all of Brighton; the dining room is constantly full! Luckily Dad's meeting customer demand with his over-caffeinated energy. The family celebrates--the restaurant will bring in steady income from now on! And Mom will get to do art every day. Truly a happy ending! **THE END**